DOCUMENT RESUME

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AUTHOR	Mora, Pat; Berg, Charles Ramirez
TITLE	The Gift of the Poinsettia = El regalo de la flor de Nochebuena.
REPORT NO	ISBN-1-55885-137-2
PUB DATE	95
NOTE	32p.; Illustrated by Daniel Lechon.
AVAILABLE FROM	Pinata Books, Arte Publico Press, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun, Houston, TX 77204-2090 ($14.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Creative Works (Literature,Drama,Fine Arts) (030) -- Multilingual/Bilingual Materials (171)
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IDENTIFIERS	*Christmas; *Festivals; Mexico

ABSTRACT

This bilingual (English and Spanish) illustrated children's book relates the story of Carlos, a young boy who lives with his aunt Nina and dog Chico in the small Mexican town of San Bernardo. Nina and Carlos are poor, but their house is full of love. Carlos is excited because he is getting ready to attend the first night of "las posadas," a festival preparing for the birth of Christ. Carlos joins other children gathered in front of a house. Two boys carry a tray with small statues of Joseph and Mary riding a donkey. Carlos and the other children sing a song asking for shelter for Mary and Joseph. The door to the house opens and Carlos sees cookies, fruit punch, and candies. For the next nine nights, Carlos attends the festivities and returns home to tell Nina about the games he has played and to share the food and other gifts he has received. Every night Carlos worries about what he will offer to the Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. He wants his gift to be special, but he and his aunt have no money. Nina tells Carlos to collect the plant that grows wild near his favorite rock and offer this as his gift. Carlos does not want to take a weed as his gift, but Nina assures him that love makes small gifts special. On Christmas Eve, Carlos stands in line before the manger holding his little plant. Carlos feels sad and tears slip down his face and fall on his plant. One after another, the leaves turn bright red. Carlos put downs his glowing red plant--the most beautiful gift in the church. Includes songs sung during las posadas. (LP)

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